

classic Freedom poinsettia, which now represents more than 60 percent of the poinsettia production in the United States.

Franz is more than a plant breeder. He is also responsible for developing the first hanging basket container and the first self-watering container. He also premiered a technique to produce the poinsettia in a tree form. He has shown his dedication to the floral industry as a 31-year member of the Ohio Florists' Association and the San Diego County Flower Growers Association.

In his acceptance speech, Franz simply said that he had been privileged to spend his life doing what he really considers to be fun: playing with his plants and seeing what new and exciting varieties he can develop. What a great lesson for all of us: here is a man who, by loving his work and devoting his life to that love, has given a great gift to us all.

Few of us can remember a time when Christmas celebrations did not include the poinsettia, but we would not have poinsettias at Christmas time without Franz Fruehwirth. The floral industry, my good friend Paul Ecke, of the Paul Ecke Ranch, and all of us in America are fortunate to have Franz Fruehwirth, who has changed American floriculture forever. And I am very proud to have him as my constituent.

I have attached an article from the San Diego Union Tribune that further highlights Mr. Fruehwirth's career.

POINSETTIA BREEDER RECOGNIZED WITH A  
SLOT IN HORTICULTURAL HALL OF FAME  
(By Dan Kraft)

Ecke, now that's a name synonymous with poinsettias.

Franz Fruehwirth's name may not be as well-known, but he, too, has been instrumental in the proliferation of the popular plants.

Fruehwirth's contributions to the floral industry were recognized in Tucson last week, when he was inducted into the Society of American Florists' Floriculture Hall of Fame at the group's annual convention.

Fruehwirth, 66, is the chief breeder, or hybridizer, at the Paul Ecke Ranch in Encinitas, which claims to be the world's largest producer and breeder of poinsettias. For the latter half of that claim, they have Fruehwirth to thank.

Although Ecke sells about 500,000 poinsettias grown in its own greenhouses each Christmas season, its genetic work has been licensed to growers around the globe and accounts for about 80 percent of poinsettias sold in the world. That genetic work is largely Fruehwirth's.

"Until he started breeding, almost all the poinsettias in the world had been mutations," said Marc Cathey, president emeritus of the American Horticultural Society and one of those who wrote letters recommending Fruehwirth for induction. "He is unique because he has no scientific training to do what he does, yet he has beat all the big boys in the world."

Fruehwirth, a native of Hungary, immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1960 with his wife, Lilo, and their daughter Monika. He was 27 at the time and did not speak English. He worked at a tailor's shop in Oceanside when Paul Ecke Jr., a customer at the shop, hired Lilo as a housekeeper and nanny and offered Fruehwirth a job caring for his plants. That was in 1962, at a time when the ranch was converting from field-grown plants to greenhouses.

"Very quickly it became obvious that he was intelligent and creative, and Dad and Grandpa began promoting him," said Paul

Ecke III. "He was instrumental in figuring out how to grow the poinsettias inside."

In 1968, Fruehwirth introduced the first new poinsettia genetics created at the Ecke Ranch. In 1991, a new variety he bred, called Freedom, was introduced. Today, it accounts for 60 percent of the poinsettias sold in the United States and Canada.

"I feel there are a lot of people who deserve recognition like this, and I'm very fortunate that I have the honor," Fruehwirth said. "I love my work and am humbled to get (the Hall of Fame induction)."

According to the Society of American Florists, induction into its Hall of Fame is reserved for those who have made a unique contribution to the industry and changed the way it does business.

"Most of those honored have a Ph.D. or are owners of major floral companies," Cathey said. "It's very rare for someone like Franz to receive this award."

During his 37-year tenure with the Eckes, Fruehwirth's "cultivars" have become increasingly dark in color and hearty, which enables florists to ship the plants greater distances and gives them a longer shelf life.

Fruehwirth, who lives in Encinitas with his wife, has no plans to retire. He is still hard at work evaluating the potential of 6,000 to 10,000 seedlings each year.

"As long as I have a positive influence, I'll keep working", he said in Tucson last week. "I still can't believe (the honor)."

A TRIBUTE TO PAYNE & DOLAN,  
INC., WINNER OF A 1999 EXEMPLARY  
VOLUNTEER EFFORTS  
AWARD FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT  
OF LABOR

**HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 7, 1999*

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to an exemplary act of community spirit and corporate citizenship. A company located in Wisconsin's Fourth Congressional District, Payne & Dolan, Incorporated, a Waukesha, Wisconsin-based highway construction company, has been named a 1999 recipient of the prestigious Exemplary Volunteer Efforts (EVE) Award from the U.S. Department of Labor.

The Department of Labor has recognized Payne & Dolan for an innovative minority hiring, training and development program that has provided outstanding opportunities for more than 160 minorities and women and invested more than \$3 million into Milwaukee's central city.

Payne & Dolan is the first highway construction company ever to receive this award. The company's comprehensive equal opportunity program includes proactive hiring efforts in Milwaukee's central city, community involvement and partnerships, scholarships, employee training and development, minority business mentoring and more.

The company has worked with the YWCA of Greater Milwaukee, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and other community partners to develop a pilot program called Transportation Alliance for New Solutions, or TRANS. This program recruits and raises awareness of industry opportunities among minorities and women.

In addition, Payne & Dolan helped spearhead development of the Central City Work-

ers' Center (CCWC), a centralized "one-stop shop" to link highway contractors with potential employees. This one-of-a-kind collaboration among unions, government, industry and community-based organizations seeks to provide family-sustaining incomes to a minimum of 150 central city residents over the next two years.

Payne & Dolan's success stories are the life stories of people like Sean McDowell, who began working for Payne & Dolan in 1993 and today, with the company's guidance and support, owns his own asphalt company. People like Roger Carson, who was hired as a laborer in 1991 and has been a foreman for two years. And people like Wendy Young, who was hired as an unskilled laborer in 1994 and is now an apprentice operating engineer.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the contributions and commitment of Payne & Dolan and its CEO, Ned Bechthold, as well as salute the employees who have worked hard to make this equal opportunity program succeed and to make the EVE award possible. It is clear that Payne & Dolan is building much more than highways—it is also building a direct path to opportunity. I commend Payne & Dolan, and I commend the United States Department of Labor for its recognition of this outstanding corporate citizen.

GERMAN-AMERICAN DAY

**HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 7, 1999*

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate German-American Day and the many great contributions German-Americans made to our society. Through their loyalty, determination, spirit, and culture, German-Americans have significantly enriched the lives of all Americans.

In 1987, Congress formally recognized the achievements of German-Americans by proclaiming October 6th to be German-American Day. As we celebrate this October 6th, the thirteenth celebration of German-American Day, all Americans have the opportunity to reflect upon the cultural legacy of German-Americans.

America's German heritage predates our nation's independence. Our first German immigrants arrived in Philadelphia in 1683. Since that time, America has enjoyed the immeasurable contributions of such creative German-American minds as Carl Schurz, Baron von Steuben, Levy Strauss, John Jacob Astor, and Peter Zenger. More recently, the works of Albert Einstein, Werner von Braun, and Henry Kissinger are testimony to the industriousness, loyalty, and talent of German-Americans.

In addition to the contributions of these German-Americans, 57 million Americans of German descent have helped enrich America through their participation in the workforce and the arts. In the 1990s, when my home city of Chicago experienced rapid growth, German immigrants arrived in their largest numbers. By sharing their industry and arts with our city, they helped Chicago become one of the world's great cities. Although Germans were only twenty-nine percent of the city's population, they constituted fifty percent of the city's bakers, forty-four percent of brick and

tile makers, and thirty-seven percent of machinists. While German-American craftsmen and skilled workers fueled Chicago's industrial growth, German art, music, and literature also helped mold the cultural developments of the city.

After the Great Fire of 1871, German-Americans took an active role in rebuilding Chicago. Their efforts can be seen even today in the city's world renowned architectural beauty. The Chicago Symphony Orchestra was founded by a German-American violinist and flourished due to talented German musicians who made Chicago's Symphony Orchestra into one of the world's greatest musical institutions. In addition, German theater introduced the classical works of Schiller and Goethe as well as many other European works.

While the contributions of German-Americans have shaped American cultural and industrial development, they are easily overlooked, largely because they have been overwhelmingly embraced by Americans and are now thought of as simply "American." October 6, 1999 once again calls attention to all Americans of German descent and their contributions to the vibrancy and strength of the United States.

#### ABRAHAM LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. BARON P. HILL**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 4, 1999*

Mr. HILL of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I want to offer my full support of H.R. 1451, the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Act.

This bill would authorize the creation of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, a group charged with the responsibility of recommending to Congress activities to celebrate the bicentennial of President Lincoln's birth.

I am particularly pleased that the bill has been amended to include commission members from my home state of Indiana.

This is important because many people don't realize President Lincoln spent 14 years of his life on a small farm in Lincoln City, Indiana. There he helped his father on the farm and developed his love of reading. It was in Lincoln City that he also lost his mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, when he was nine years old. These events during his formative years in Indiana contributed greatly to the development of President Lincoln's extraordinary character.

Mr. Speaker, the residents of Indiana are proud of this heritage. H.R. 1451 will help highlight the extraordinary life of our 16th president. No commemoration would be complete without noting southern Indiana's part in the Abraham Lincoln story. I encourage all Americans wishing to learn more about this American hero to visit Lincoln City, Indiana, and the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial.

I am pleased Congress is taking the initiative to promote and support the commemoration of such a remarkable figure in our American history.

RAY SAUL HONORED

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 7, 1999*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished journalist, community leader, and close friend from my District in Hazleton, Pennsylvania—Ray Saul. This month, the Sons of Italy Lodge 1043 will honor Ray as "Italian American of the Year." I am pleased to have been asked to participate in this event.

A native of Hazleton, Ray is a graduate of Hazleton High School and Penn State, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in journalism. He was the editor of his college yearbook and was cited by the All College Board for outstanding achievement as a student leader. A Navy veteran of World War II, Ray entered the service as an apprentice seaman and retired as a Lieutenant Commander after a combined 21 years of active and reserve service.

Ray is best known to the community for his 47 years of dedicated journalism at the Hazleton Standard-Speaker newspaper. Ray was sports editor at the Standard-Speaker for twenty-seven years and managing editor for the last fifteen years. Since his retirement in 1997, he continues to write sports columns and other features for the newspaper. As a journalist, Ray was an active member of the Associated Press Sports Editors Association and the Managing Editors Association.

In 1995, he was honored by the Department of Defense for his feature stories of various Hazletonians serving in World War II. Ray received an Associated Press Citation for a story on a local basketball team's success. In recognition of his writing and participation in sports, he was honored by several chapters of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame and the PIAA District 2.

Ray Saul has always recognized the unique responsibilities inherent in leading a local newspaper which is truly the voice of its community. Under his leadership, the Standard-Speaker could be relied on for fair and accurate reporting of stories important to the Greater Hazleton area. Ray always put the interests of the community first.

Ray's accomplishments are far reaching into the community as well. He is an active Kiwanian and has been awarded the International Tablet of Honor once and the Kiwanian of the Year twice. He has been an active Penn State alum, helping to raise funds for new buildings on the Hazleton Campus. In 1984, he was the fifth person in the then-50 year history of the Hazleton campus to receive the Penn Stater Award, for outstanding service to the university.

Mr. Speaker, Ray is the son of the late Santo Saul and Genevieve DeJoseph. All four of his grandparents were Italian immigrants. From his distinguished Navy career his beloved journalism career, Ray is a true example of an American success story. Even in retirement, he and his wife Nell are respected, active members of the community. I applaud the Sons of Italy for their choice of this year's honoree and am proud to congratulate Ray on yet another prestigious award. I send him my heartiest best wishes for continued health and happiness.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 7, 1999*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, October 4, I was unavoidably detained and missed four votes on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall votes 470–473.

HONORING BILL WALTERS

**HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 7, 1999*

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Bill Walters, who holds the office of Registrar of Wills in York, Pennsylvania. Mr. Walters has never lost an election, primary or general, and has been on the ballot 38 consecutive times as either a candidate for Springettsbury township, Register of Wills, or Republican Committeeman. After years of committed service to the people of York and York County, he will be retiring at the end of this term.

Bill Walters came to York, Pennsylvania from Connecticut, but regards York as his home and plans to remain here after retirement. He has always been a big supporter of mine as well as good friend.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Bill Walters as he steps down from his position with the City of York, and wish him well in his upcoming retirement from a life of public service.

IN HONOR OF GEORGE  
LYKOURETZOS, 1999 CHARLES E.  
PIPER AWARD RECIPIENT

**HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 7, 1999*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. George Lykouretzos, a business owner in Berwyn, Illinois. Mr. Lykouretzos will be receiving the Charles E. Piper Award for Business Achievement.

The Charles E. Piper Award is named for one of Berwyn's original developers. Each year, the Berwyn Development Corporation honors business men and women from the community who contribute to the growth and economic development of the community. This year, George Lykouretzos has been chosen because of his commitment to the community.

George Lykouretzos is the owner of Skylite Family Restaurant and the Skylite West Banquets located in Berwyn, Illinois. Because of his outstanding business practices and his commitment to the investing back into the community, the Berwyn Development Corporation chose to honor George Lykouretzos with the Charles E. Piper Award on October 23, 1999.

I would like to commend George Lykouretzos and his family and staff on their excellent service to their customers. I would also like to extend my personal congratulations on Mr. Lykouretzos' achievement and